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"The best is always the cheapest."

THE MANCHESTER STRAWBERRY;

Its History, Description, Notices of the Press, and Opinions of Experts.

FREE TO ALL WHO DESIRE IT.

J. T. LOVETT,

MONMOUTH NURSERY,

Little Silver, Monmouth Co., New Jersey.

Money Order and Telegraph Offices, Red Bank, N. J.

Remit by P. O. Order (on Red Bank, N. J.), Registered Letter, or Draft. Sums of $2.00 or less, may be sent without registering, if *distinctly* addressed to me at Little Silver, Monmouth Co., N. J.

TERMS, Cash with order. Plants will be sent C. O. D., if desired, provided one-quarter the amount is sent with the order; but this is a somewhat more costly mode of remitting.

The prices affixed are for the quantities specified, but half dozen, and fifty will be supplied at dozen, and hundred rates, respectively. Plants will be sent by mail postpaid, when so desired at price quoted per dozen. When ordered at 100 rate to be sent by mail, add 15c. for fifty and 25c. per hundred.

All Packing is executed with the utmost care without charge. Special pains are taken to pack *lightly*, thereby reducing the expense of transportation to a minimum.

It is particularly requested that you give your name and address, including STATE, *fully and unmistakably*. Also, the Express office or depot to which the goods are to be sent.

In competition with **seven** others, *The Manchester* was awarded **FIRST PREMIUM** for the *best new variety*, by the MASS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. When it is remembered that Strawberry Culture is carried to a higher plain about Boston, than anywhere else in the country, and that the discriminating fruit committee of that renowned society is perhaps the most exacting of any in the world, it would be difficult to conceive a more emphatic endorsement.

PRICE.

$2.00 per dozen, $10.00 per 100.

Not more than two hundred will be sold to any one party, without special agreement.

(Plants can be had at any time during the winter; we having made arrangements to this effect, to accommodate our patrons at the South. No Pot-grown plants until the summer of 1882.)

THE MANCHESTER.

"He who produces two strawberries, where only one grew before, is a public benefactor."

Mr. Peter B. Mead, the eminent Pomologist and popular horticultural writer, describes this new and very distinct strawberry pomologically thus:

Form, oblate-conical. *Size*, large. *Color*, scarlet. *Flesh*, pink, firm but melting with a rich sub-acid juice, and a decided aromatic flavor. *Leaf-stalk* reddish, as are also the runners. *Flower-stalk* stout. *Flower*, pistillate or imperfect. *Plant*, robust and very productive. *Quality*, very good, to best. The plant is seemingly well adapted to very light soils, and will doubtless find itself at home throughout a wide range of country, and prove itself to be especially valuable for market, whether near or distant.

Although perfection has never been attained in a fruit, and perhaps never will be, still, varieties like the Bartlett Pear, Baldwin Apple, Concord Grape and Cuthbert Raspberry, unite so many points of excellence, both in tree or vine, and in fruit, and thus approach so closely the ideal fruits of their respective kinds, they must ever be subjects of profound wonder to all reflecting minds; the thought ever recurring, "how was their existence ever brought about." Such an acme among strawberries, yet remains to be introduced. Some may claim that Wilson's Albany is this, yet it is not. While we freely concede to it much veneration for the good it has done in extending the culture of the strawberry, although it is firm, and has proved adapted to a wide range of soils and climates, and was formerly large and productive; yet it never *has been* fit to eat, as generally picked, judged as a strawberry should be judged. It is not claimed that the **MANCHESTER** is a *perfect* strawberry—yet it is believed that it is nearer so, than any variety that has yet been disseminated. In fact it is with complete confidence we make the broad claim that it is veritably "the greatest strawberry on earth," and

BECAUSE:

1.—It is supremely firm, keeping its color and flavor and *remaining* firm longer than any other variety, (See testimony of C. W. Idell, Commission Merchant, and *American Agriculturist*, *Horticola* in *Rural New Yorker*, page 7, etc.)

2.—It is large and exceptionally uniform **throughout** the season.

3.—In form it is as near perfect as can be desired, and remarkably regular; resembling Cumberland Triumph. In going over all the different fields of it, on Mr. Battey's grounds, (embracing several acres), I could not find a solitary cockscomb shaped berry. This was also the case as I examined it growing on rich alluvial land in Connecticut, and at the Monmouth Nursery.

4.—It is exquisitely beautiful, being of the most brilliant, charming scarlet imaginable, with smooth surface, and prominent bright golden seeds. It ripens all over at once, never having the slightest "green tip," and keeps its color longer than any other berry.

5.—It is of superb quality—being much sweeter and richer than any other *productive* variety. In this it resembles in a marked degree, the highly flavored pioneer, Hovey's Seedling.

6.—It is wonderfully prolific—producing full doubly as much as the Wilson.

7.—It is a very vigorous grower, with large luxurient glossy foliage, and putting out large pink runners. It makes plants but moderately, showing a disposition to stoole, resembling in habit of growth Sharpless somewhat, although entirely distinct in other respects. How long it will remain in health and fruitful has not yet been ascertained, but the originator's first patch has now been in bearing seven years; produced a large crop the past season, and from all appearances would produce—if left remain,—as much fruit in the seven years to come as it has in the seven that have passed.

8.—It continues in fruit for a long season, commencing to ripen with Charles Downing, and continuing until very late, bringing up the last blossoms to large and perfect berries—a characteristic most desirable, but one which no other variety exhibits in the same degree.

9.—It endures drowth better than any other variety. During the fruiting season of 1880, such a drowth prevailed at Manchester, as to literally burn up both plants and fruit of the Wilson, and other varieties in the same rows with Manchester, while it perfected its large crop of large berries without faltering. The berries were almost as large and numerous as in the season of bountiful rains of 1881.

10.—Its fruit stalks are tall and very strong, admitting of mulching, and in a great measure holding the fruit from the ground.

IMPERFECTIONS.

Among the undesirable qualities that varieties otherwise desirable possess, (although in part a recapitulation of the preceeding, yet may not be out of place in being mentioned here), from which the Manchester is exempt, are, it does not mat the ground with plants, like the Crescent Seedling, Capt. Jack, French's Seedling, Downer's Prolific, etc. It has never been known to scald, *i. e.* the fruit turn soft and watery during excessive heat, especially immediately succeeding copious rains; it never buries itself in the earth, like the Wilson for example; it never has the "green tip" or a white spot on one side, but colors all over at once. It does not dwindle rapidly in size, after the first picking, as is the case with most productive varieties—notably the Wilson and Capt. Jack—but continues to produce large, perfect berries, to the close of its long season. Its foliage has never been known to blight or rust; it does not change color, or lose its flavor quickly after picked, as do other kinds, particularly the highly flavored choice varieties, but what might be termed its antiseptic qualities, being quite remarkable. It has never been known to winter kill.

As what might, by some, be considered a disadvantage, it has pistillate blossoms, and requires to be fertilized by some other variety. This is in reality an advantage, as it is not possible for a variety to be so productive, when it produces the pollen to fertilize its flowers, as when the same is supplied it by some other variety. It should be remembered, that the most prolific varieties all have pistillate blossoms, *e. g.* Crescent, Champion, Green Prolific, etc. It may be here stated, that the Wilson is perhaps as good as any to use for the purpose, although almost any variety with bi-sexual, or "perfect" blossoms, may be used; such as Sharpless, Bidwell, Miner's Prolific, etc. The originator, or properly the discoverer has always been successful with the Wilson, and finds a row of it every fifteen feet is quite sufficient.

HISTORY.

The Manchester is a chance seedling, found growing in a neglected spot in an old garden at Manchester, N. J., about ten years ago. There were growing on the place at the time, Russell's Prolific, Wilson, Jucunda, Agriculturist and a half dozen or more of other kinds, but as it was found growing a distance from any other strawberry plants, its parentage can only be surmised. From close observations of the blossoms, plant in different stages of growth and fruit, it is thought to be a cross between the Russell and Jucunda; but this is purely conjecture, there being no data on which to base such a conclusion. Even while overgrown with weeds, it was so large and fine that the discoverer transferred the off-spring to the field; when the results were so extraordinary, even without cultivation or fertilizers, he planted as quickly as he could obtain the plants a large patch of it, and has been extending his plantations ever since. Mr. C. W. Idell, Commission Merchant, 333 Washington Street, N. Y., who handles his berries, found it such a remarkable variety, that he brought it to the notice of the NEW JERSEY STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, at its annual meeting in 1880. Mr. J. H. Hale of G. H. & J. H. Hale and myself being present, we consulted its owner in regard to introducing it. A sum was finally agreed upon for the refusal of the control of it, until we could learn more of the berry. After once seeing it in fruit, we were so well pleased with it, that negotiations were immediately entered into and consummated for the entire stock, and to place it upon the market. This with the assistance of other trustworthy nurserymen, we are now endeavoring to do, but should any one offer plants at less prices than those herein named, they can be stamped as spurious, which they will certainly be. When the Wilson is used as a variety to fertilize the blossoms of the Manchester (the name was adopted at a meeting of horticulturists on the premises of the originator, June 9th, 1881, to denote its place of origin) the difficulty which the grower experiences in getting the Wilson's gathered is amusing—the pickers all wanting to pick the Manchester on account of its increased size and yield. So decided is this the case that it has been found necessary to require them to pick the Wilsons *first*, while the pickers are "fresh," in order to get them picked at all, before any are allowed to pick Manchesters. Since this berry has proved such a signal success for ten years on the soil of sea sand at Manchester without fertilizers and almost without cultivation, and has proved as much superior as the soil and cultivation were better, in other places, we can conceive no reason why it will not do well generally. It is not, as has been intimated by some, a *rampant* grower.

WORDS OF COMMENDATION.

As seen on the light sandy soil where it originated.

From PETER B. MEAD, *the co-worker with Chas. Downing.*—As requested, I herewith enclose you a pomological description of the MANCHESTER [see page 2]. I think a mistake was made at Manchester in taking the Wilson as a standard for comparison, as the Manchester is undoubtedly superior to the Wilson in all respects. If, however, it was simply meant that the Manchester was every way fitted to take the place of the Wilson as a market fruit for general cultivation, besides being very much better in quality, it was all right enough.

Quality, with me, stands first and paramount in all that pertains to food and drink; hence, my long and persistent fight years ago, almost alone, against the Concord Grape and the Wilson Strawberry as standards of excellence. To-day I look very complacently at the result. I hope the Manchester may have all the success I think it deserves.

From J. G. BURROW, *the disseminator of the Jefferson Grape and Primo Strawberry.*—This is another new claimant for public favor, and I think justly so. I saw it this season on the pine barrons of Southern New Jersey, where it originated, and its abundant crop, uniform good size, firmness and good quality, growing under such unfavorable circumstances, struck me as being very remarkable, and I think speaks volumes in its favor. In form and flavor it much resembles Hovey's Seedling.

From E. P. ROE, *the distinguished Author and Nurseryman.*—The best way in which I can express an opinion of the Manchester, is to say that I shall plant it very largely. I truly believe that it is destined to become one of the most popular varieties.

From WM. PARRY, *the eminent Small Fruit Grower and Nurseryman.*—We consider the Manchester as it appeared on its native soil a valuable berry—combining all the requisites for market or family use, and should it prove as well adapted to other localities, I deem it worthy of extensive cultivation.

From B. B. HANCE, *formerly of A. Hance & Son.*—The Manchester as I saw it in its home (which was almost as destitute of vegetable matter as the ocean beach), and in beds of seven years standing, was certainly the best adapted to such a neglected condition of things of any berry I ever saw. If, from a proportionate improvement that might reasonably be expected, when it is transplanted to better surroundings, this berry would be in advance of all present competitors.

From EZRA STOKES, *prominent Small Fruit Grower of Camden Co., N. J.*—I was much pleased with the Manchester as I saw it on ——— grounds. Its bright color, fine flavor, uniform size and shape, and remarkable firmness, will make it popular as a market berry; and added to this, its productiveness renders it more desirable for the grower. I look upon it as *the* berry of 1881.

From WM. F. BASSETT, *the Veteran Horticulturist, Small Fruit Grower and Nurseryman.*—I have tried so many new fruits, only to be disappointed, that I am growing conservative on the subject, and hesitate to endorse anything in this line; but there are some points in the Manchester that seem pretty safe to count upon. As I saw it, it certainly was growing upon land that failed to produce good Wilson's Albany, or even a fair crop of weeds and sorrel. Although evidently totally neglected, the fruit was large and fine looking, and to my taste not excelled in point of flavor by any of the twenty or more varieties, new and old, I have tested this season.

AS SEEN GROWING ON THE ALLUVIAL SOIL OF THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY.

From F. M. HEXAMER, *Editor of the American Garden, and perhaps the best authority on Strawberries in the world.*—After full deliberation, I do not hesitate to say the Manchester has more good qualities than any other strawberry in cultivation. For shape, color, flavor, beauty, firmness and uniform large size of berries, as well as for productiveness and hardiness of plants combined, it has no equal.

From S. T. MAYNARD. *Prof. of Horticulture, Massachusetts Agricultural College.*—I think it the most promising new variety yet introduced, and the long time it has been tested would seem to make it almost certain that it will fulfill all it now promises.

From P. M. AUGUR, *State Pomologist of Connecticut.*—The first sight of the Manchester strawberry impressed me most favorably. I believe it to be the coming berry which will probably make a new era in strawberry growing.

From HERBERT MYRICK, *in* NEW ENGLAND HOMESTEAD.—Much has been said in the papers about the Manchester strawberry. Yet, as we saw it, it is almost impossible to exaggerate its good qualities. It seems to be the perfect berry, plant vigorous and loaded with berries—the largest we ever saw.

AS SEEN GROWING ON THE ROCKY LAND OF ESSEX CO., N. J.

From E. WILLIAMS, *Secretary of the* NEW JERSEY STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—I regard the Manchester as a very promising variety indeed: fully as much so as I did the Sharpless. My fall set plants bore fully as well as fall set plants of the Sharpless, vie with them in growth, and surpass them in *quality* of fruit.

A CLINCHER.

From W. L. FERRIS, JR., *the prominent Nurseryman and Seedsman.*—I never had any luck finding four-leaved clovers, even when, somehow, everybody would get them, I never could. The day I went to Manchester, I think for the first time in my life, I found one. Perhaps there's no *luck* in the world, and then again, perhaps there is. If the Manchester isn't just the luckiest four-leaved clover find in the strawberry line, then I'm "behind the lighthouse," as the boys say. I have seen it large in size, bright in color, firm, of best flavor, and "lots of them," growing on vigorous plants in *wretched* soil where little Wilson's along side and between, buried themselves in the sand and refused to show anything but a half crop of half sized berries on half sized plants. I have also seen the Manchester on good ground and under good treatment, where it had responded until it has surpassed anything I have seen, taking firmness into consideration, with size, quality and productiveness. If it will succeed as universally—and I see no reason why not—as under these two almost extremes, I think it will lead anything now disseminated.

THE "PERFECT" STRAWBERRY.

The able contributor, "Bannockburn," describes in the *Rural New Yorker*, of April 30th, 1881, the ideal Strawberry as follows :

A friend who retails many of my berries had often told me that his customers still liked the Wilson better than some of our choicest varieties; they bought the large and handsome ones because of their attractiveness, but after all preferred the flavor of the Wilson. At first I thought it a clear case of "depraved" taste; but I find the people are quite correct in their opinions. The truth is, nearly all of our finest berries rapidly deteriorate in flavor after picking, while the Wilson improves. Picked an hour or two before eating, nine out of ten people would prefer any of the choicer varieties to the Wilson; but if the berries be kept until morning, the Wilson will be preferred by the majority. Now, what is wanted for a market berry is one of large size, good color and form, as productive as the Wilson, but of better flavor. Customers are beginning to discriminate and will appreciate fine flavor. We have berries early enough and late enough and large enough; for home use we have plenty of handsome, superb delicious berries; but now we want for market one that will be of *good flavor when picked, and just as good twenty hours afterwards.* When the "coming" berry comes, Mr. Editor, be at the christening, and don't maim it with a name.

Rochester, N. Y. "BANNOCKBURN."

Knowing that good business men when desiring positive information concerning anybody or anything, they go *in person* to obtain it, and believing the Manchester (the name was adopted as a *good and solid* appellation appropriate to the berry, as well as to designate its place of origin), to be just the berry, *in every particular*, demanded in "Bannockburn's article, we invited the leading Horticulturist and Strawberry growers of New Jersey and adjoining States *to come and see it for themselves* in bearing on Mr. ——— grounds, which a number did on June 9th. An account of the meeting as reported in the *New Jersey Standard* is herewith subjoined. As before stated, the keeping qualities of the berry are simply remarkable. Berries picked on the day of the meeting, and in the rain at that, were put in a cool place, and at the end of seven days had not changed color or flavor.

THE MANCHESTER STRAWBERRY.

[From the *N. J. Standard*, abridged and changed to agree with Short-hand report of speeches :]

Everybody who has a garden-patch should be interested to know something about strawberries. It is astonishing that a fruit so easily and universally grown should not find a place in every garden, however small it may be. The varieties are almost too numerous to catalogue, and while all of them are favorites in some particular place, but few of them do well everywhere; for instance, the "Hovey's Seedling," a superb berry in some parts of the country, is nearly worthless in New Jersey. This is true of many other fine varieties. On the other hand the Wilson thrives and does well in almost every kind of soil and climate, and is therefore a favorite for general culture, notwithstanding its inferior quality. Many fine berries are adapted only for amateur culture or family use, or a very near market, as they are too fine or soft to stand long transportation. The time is, however, now at hand when the people of this section should demand better fruit.

The public will soon learn that there is the same difference in the quality of strawberries as there is between a choke pear and a Bartlett.

For many years propagators have been trying to obtain a berry that will equal the Wilson in productiveness, firmness, and general adaptability to localities and be superior to it in quality; in other words, to produce a market berry that will equal the finer sorts in quality. Two years ago at the meeting of the N. J. Horticultural Society at Newark, Mr. ——— ——— of Manchester, N. J., claimed that he had such a berry, but people were skeptical on that point, and it not being in the berry season he was unable to show his fruit, and he failed to make any impression. Mr. Lovett, of Little Silver, visited his place last summer and saw the fruit in its prime. He immediately made up his mind that Mr. had a good thing, and this season all the prominent strawberry growers of this and neighboring States were invited to come and see the berry. Thursday, the 9th, was the day decided upon as promising the best show of fruit, and, notwithstanding the inclement weather, about forty gentlemen met at Mr. strawberry Plantation.

On alighting from the train, the party proceeded at once to view the berry patches and to taste the fruit. There were many exclamations of surprise to find so fine a berry, of such an excellent quality, growing among the pine barrens with scarcely any culture and without any fertilizers whatever. Such remarks as, "Richer berry than Cumberland Triumph;" "Better flavor than Hovey's Seedling," were frequently heard. That berry patch suffered, for it had upon it men who were judges of the flavor of strawberries, and who would have but tasted an inferior berry, however fine might be its appearance. The quality of the fruit was decided upon at once. Many questions were asked as to how long the patch had been in bearing; what fertilizers had been used; what previous crop had been raised on the ground, or was the ground new. They were all astonished when told that the patch had been in bearing five years without any fertilizer.

Among the gentlemen present were Hon. Wm. Parry, of Cinnaminson, N. J.; Garret F. Hering, of Montvale, N. J.; John Parry, of Parry P. O., N. J.; W. F. Dreer, Seedsman, Philadelphia, Pa.; S. C. Jennings, Editor Toms River *Courier*; Peter B. Mead, Mamaroneck, N. Y.; E. P. Roe, Cornwall-on-Hudson; Edwin Beekman, Middletown, N. J.; B. B. Hance, Rumson, N. J.; J. T. Lovett, Little Silver, N. J.; W. L. Ferris, Jr., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; E. T. Field, Middletown, N.J.; J.H. Hale, So. Glastonbury, Conn.; Frank McMahon, Fair Haven, N. J.; Charles W. Idell, Hoboken, N. J.; J. G. Burrow, Fishkill, N. Y.; C. A. Dix, Lakewood, N. J.; John S. Collins, Moorestown, N. J.; W. F. Bassett, Hammonton, N. J.; B. L. Trafford, Rumson, N. J.; Wilmer Atkinson, Editor *Farm Journal*, Philadelphia, Pa.; Ezra and Samuel Stokes, Berlin, N. J.; C. P. Hayes of Delaware, and others.

After the party were satisfied with the inspection in the field, they retired to the house where an excellent collation was spread, with more berries served with sugar and cream for dessert.

An informal meeting was then organized, with Mr. Wilmer Atkinson, Chairman, and J. T. Lovett, Secretary. The gentlemen were then invited to give expression of their opinions without reserve.

Mr. J. H. Hale said that he had nothing particular to *say* of the berry, but he was "full of it," was very favorably impressed with it. Had been traveling about the country eight or ten years. "Can only say I have never seen a strawberry which at first sight strikes me so favorably. It is a fine, showy berry; firm and the quality must be g od, judging from the quality of them consumed to-day. I speak from my experience with a hundred or more varieties, many of them new. I think it will take the front rank as a market berry."

Mr. John S. Collins was very much pleased with the berry. Thought Mr. entitled to much credit. It certainly showed excellent qualities on this ground.

Mr. C. W. Idell has sold the fruit for three years. It always sold well and carried well. An especially noteworthy character of the berry is its retaining its color and flavor for a long time. He frequently "kept it over," as he could this and could not other kinds.

Peter B. Mead.—"I have to say briefly that I have been disappointed in two or three particulars; disappointed in finding so productive a berry under so many disadvantages; barrenness of soil, want of culture; giving such fine results has impressed me in a general way. In a particular way I am very much pleased with it. It is of a brilliant scarlet color, fine shape, oblate conical, flesh tender and exceedingly juicy; fine rich vinous flavor. I have never seen a strawberry that in all respects impressed me so favorably. In this I think the strawberry has been discovered that has long been sough' for; I shall not only recommend it here, but everywhere, and hope that every body will grow it, and every body say they *Lovett*.

Ezra Stokes said that he could freely endorse all that had been said.

Wm. F. Bassett.—"For twenty-five years I have been looking for a strawberry that I could eat without sugar, and am very glad that I have at last found it in the Manchester. I have never seen a berry I like as well as this.

E. P. Roe desired to ascertain the parentage of the berry; berries like blooded stock would develope the good and the bad points of the parent. He said it certainly did well on light soil, but "it originated in this sand and has grown in this sand," and questioned its doing well on heavy soil. He closed by extolling the Bidwell.

J. H. Hale.—"It makes by far the finest show for fruit of anything on our grounds. My soil is a strong loam."

Peter B. Mead—had never known of an instance of a strawberry that did well on light soil that did not do better on good soil, "and the berry will increase in fertility, and sometimes even in quality—but the quality is more fixed than productiveness. If, however, you begin with a strawberry that is adapted only to heavy soil and work down to light soil, there will be nothing left of it. We have a good many fine strawberries that grow abundantly and yield handsomely on heavy loam, which, when placed in sandy loam, refuse to grow. We have been looking for a long while for the strawberry that would grow in light, sandy soil. We have here a fair criterion in this berry; with no cultivation and under the most unfavorable conditions, the plant has produced a very fine crop and the berries are very handsome."

Wm. Parry.—"I cannot leave without expressing the pleasure and gratification I felt at looking at those boxes of berries as soon as I came in sight of them. They are very attractive and very interesting to look upon, and I find at the table, still more delicious to eat. The berry possesses just the requisites to make it popular in market. Whilst their great beauty will attract the attention of all purchasers who come along, yet they will not be disappointed when they come to eat them, and their fine quality will be the means of their buying them again."

After some discussion, the new berry was named the Manchester, after the name of the town where it originated.

The new berry will create a sensation among strawberry growers as soon as it is disseminated. The strong endorsement given it on this occasion by disinterested parties must carry great weight with it.

Thanks were voted to Mr. Battey for his excellent entertainment. Sample stools of berries were brought to Red Bank to be photographed. Those present from a distance felt repaid for a journey of a few hundred miles to the Jersey Pines to see so fine a berry growing in the sand.

At the close of the meeting a certificate of the originator being presented by the Secretary, it was taken up, the several points discussed and modified, so as to satisfy the most conservative and the staunchest friends of the Wilson, when it read and was signed as follows:

This is to Certify that we, the undersigned, having this day examined several acres of the seedling strawberry "Manchester" as grown on light, sandy soil, endorse the statement, which reads as follows:

AS COMPARED WITH WILSON'S ALBANY.

1. It averages one and a half times the size.
2. It is of much better flavor.
3. It is far more attractive with its bright scarlet color, and finer in appearance.
4. The plant is double the size and far more vigorous.
5. It carries the fruit higher from the ground.
6. The yield, as it appears, is one-half more.
7. In firmness it fully equals the Wilson.

[Dated] June 9th, 1881.

[Signed]

E. BEEKMAN,	WM. L. FERRIS Jr.	C. H. DIX,
G. F. HERING,	J. H. HALE,	B. L. TRAFFORD,
PETER B. MEAD,	SAMUEL S. H. STOKES,	FRANK McMAHON,
JNO. S. COLLINS,	WM. PARRY,	JNO. R. PARRY,
B. B. HANCE,	E. P. ROE,	C. P. HAYES,
EZRA STOKES,	J. G. BURROW,	WM. F. DREER,
JOSHUA BARTON,	WM. F. BASSETT,	

I, having sold the berry referred to for several years and in quantity for the past three years, do hereby certify, that from its large size, bright color, fine appearance and firmness, it invariably commands high prices. Further, it keeps its color the best of any berry I have ever handled and "stands up" well. I do not hesitate to "keep it over" and have at different times, when there was a glut in the market, kept it over until the second day, when it would present a fine appearance and sell readily at better prices than could possibly have been obtained when it came into market.

[Signed] C.W. IDELL, Commission Merchant, 333 Wahington St., N. Y. City.

OFFICERS OF MEETING { WILMER ATKINSON, President, J. T. LOVETT, Secretary.

WHAT THE NEWSPAPERS SAY.

From the AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST, for Aug., 1881.

The chief novelty brought to our notice the present season is

The "Manchester."

Some time ago, our friend, J. T. Lovett, Small Fruit Grower at Little Silver, N. J., intimated that he had a surprise in store for us at "strawberry time." Last spring he sent us an invitation to visit the grounds of Mr. —— —— at Manchester, N. J. We were unable to go, but we requested a friend who did go, to bring specimens and information. It seems that another party from Philadelphia and vicinity met a large party from around New York to pass judgment on the berry. Mr. Battey found the plant as a chance seedling and multiplied it until he now has several acres planted with it. The productiveness is described as something wonderful, when the soil, or properly earth (for there is little that can be called *soil*), in which it grows, is considered. Thinking that we might not know the "Pine Barren" soil, our friend was at the trouble of bringing us a sample in which the plants grew. Among the Horticulturists who met at Manchester, were experts like E. P. Roe, J. T. Lovett, Wm. Parry, W. F. Dreer, J. H. Hale, John S. Collins, C.W. Idell, W. F. Bassett, B. B. Hance, and many others. After inspecting the plants in the field, and the fruit at the table, they gave as the "sense of the meeting," comparing it with the Wilson, side by side on the same ground: "1. In size it averages one and a half larger. 2. Of much better flavor. 3. It is far more attractive in appearance. 4. The plant is double the size and much more vigorous. 5. It carries the fruit higher from the ground. 6. The yield is one half greater. 7. In firmnes it fully equals the Wilson." We should have differed as to Nos. 2 and 3. It is not only of "much better flavor," but it has a very good flavor, which the Wilson has not; it is not only "far more attractive in appearance," but is really attractive in appearance—being bright at the end of four days, while the Wilson begins to be dull as soon as it is picked. We look upon the Manchester with much interest, for the reason that many of our popular varieties, which were satisfactory in the rich soils where they originated, have been miserably poor when taken to light sandy soils. In this we have a berry that started at the other end, originates upon a sand so poor, that it can not with propriety be called a soil. It can not be possible for it to be planted in a poorer soil, and we have every reason to believe that wherever it may be grown it will hereafter be better than it was when seen by this party of visitors. We shall be greatly disappointed if the "Manchester" does not make its mark in the future.

From the RURAL NEW YORKER, of July 29, 1881.

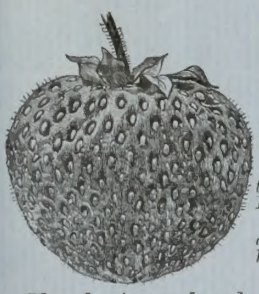
I was at Manchester on Thursday the 9th, in the midst of the rain and Mr. —— seedling Strawberry. I had a wet time and a good one. There was a large party of Strawberry Growers present, Mr. Roe coming from Newburgh, N. Y., Mr. Parry from Cinnaminson, N. J., Mr. Hale from Hartford. Ct., Mr. Lovett and others from places nearer by, and each one seemed to be glad he came. Mr. —— seedling is a remarkable strawberry in some respects. His farm is composed chiefly of sea sand with a small admixture of vegetable matter; and right on this sand the seedling strawberry was growing, a stranger to cultivation for a year at least, I should judge; yet there was an abundance of large, handsome scarlet berries, of a broadly conical form, red-fleshed, firm and juicy and of a decidedly rich and spicy flavor. In form the berry resembles the old Hovey's seedling. As some evidence of how it was liked, the whole party remained in the field eating for a long time in the drizzle, until, finally they were fairly driven out by the increasing rain, but only to go to the house for a strawberry lunch. A meeting was organized, the merits of the berry discussed, a list of points made out, and these altered and amended till all could agree to them. At last we all trudged to the cars through a pouring rain, each man carrying a large (inner) basket of strawberries with him. I could not carry all mine that way, so I put about a quart in my valise, and after tumbling about in that for a couple of days, they were in good condition on Saturday night, and pronounced to be excellent by a small party of ladies who ate them. That certainly, speaks well for the market qualities of the fruit. I am much of the opinion that this seedling will become a popular favorite in time. If it produces such fine results in nearly pure sand, what may it not do when removed to a more generous soil? —*Horticola.*

From the FARM JOURNAL for July 1881.

We attended a strawberry christening the other day in South Jersey. —— —— a farmer, has accidently originated a new variety of strawberry that is believed to possess unusual merit. Our friend J. T. Lovett, of Little Silver, N. J., proposes to introduce this berry to the public, and it was through his invitation that we attended the christening. A dozen or two well-known gentlemen engaged in dissemination of small fruits, and small fruit plants, were present; for instance, William Parry and John S. Collins of Burlington Co., Ezra Stokes and his boys, E. P. Roe from-up-the-Hudson, Hale, a jolly fellow from Connecticut, Dix, a Jersey Yankee, of Lakewood, Hance of Red Bank, Bassett, Peter D. Mead, the veteran, Dreer, of Philadelphia, and lots more. Idell, the N. Y., Commission merchant, was there, and Lovett, of course was on hand. We all examined the new berry and pronounced it of good quality, solid, prolific, handsome, of good size and shape, and borne upon a vigorous plant, even in thin, sandy soil, and with indifferent care and cultivation. How it will do elsewhere, and under other conditions, remains to be seen. By a vote of those present the baby was named "Manchester," after the town near which it was born.

MONMOUTH NURSERY,

J. T. LOVETT, Prop.



Manchester, reduced.

Choice Small Fruits a Specialty.

"The Manchester has more good qualities than any other strawberry in cultivation."—Ed. Am. Garden.

"From its large size, bright color, fine appearance, and firmness, it invariably commands high prices in market."—N. Y. Com. Merchant.

☞ **Every effort made to grow plants in the best manner, and to pack them so as to reach their destination in perfect condition, be the distance ever so great.**

Little Silver, N. J., Feb. 1, 1882.

Dear Sir:

You have not yet become a patron of our Nursery; trusting you may I hand you a pamphlet of that remarkable strawberry, the Manchester. I also wish to call your attention to my general Catalogue for the Spring of 1882. It is a book of 38 pages, finely illustrated with 40 engravings, is replete with valuable information on Fruit Culture, and gives accurate, **honest** *descriptions of the various varieties of fruit, with the lowest possible prices for strictly first-class trees and plants of same. It contains also beautiful portraits, colored true to nature, of the* **Manchester Strawberry, Souhegan Raspberry** *and* **Kieffer's Hybrid Pear.** *Besides the host of popular varieties (including nearly or quite every well tested sort worthy of culture), many choice novelties are offered, viz.:* **26 New Strawberries, 13 New Grapes** *(including the superb white grapes of recent origin),* **8 New Raspberries, New Currants, New Blackberries, New Peaches, Pears, Quinces,** *etc., etc. In addition to* **Fruit Trees and Plants** *it contains a select list of Ornamental Trees and Plants, with prices, Vegetable Plants and Rural Books. The price of the Catalogue to the general public is six cents, but I will mail it to you on receipt of a postal card, giving name and address in full and distinctly.*

Hoping to hear from you soon,

I am, your obedient servant,

J. T. LOVETT.

From the N. Y. Weekly Times, for July 6, 1881.

"Manchester" is a new seedling accidentally produced by a Mr. Battey, of Manchester, N. J. This berry is said by some good judges to be really extraordinary. It is growing upon almost pure sand and produces abundantly large, handsome, scarlet berries, red-fleshed, firm, juicy, and of a sprightly and rich flavor. The keeping qualities are also highly spoken of. The varieties of this fruit that will do well upon sandy soils are few in number, and a good, well-flavored berry firm enough to ship and to keep for three days and of attractive appearance, as well as good enough for private gardens and farms, and that will succeed upon light, dry soils, will soon become a very popular one. For a berry that will do well upon almost pure sand and with but poor cultivation will be something remarkable on better soils and with good treatment. And this is what is claimed for the Manchester.

From Seed-Time and Harvest.

For the above cut of the Manchester Strawberry we are indebted to our friend Mr. J. T. Lovett, of Little Silver N. J., who is now introducing this variety under the broad claim of "the greatest strawberry on earth." It is a chance seedling found growing in an old garden by Mr. ——— ——— of Manchester, N. J., who has grown it for market for the past seven years. Thus it has been well tested, though offered to the public this fall for the first time. It is described as of large size, supremely firm, (being even firmer than the Wilson and keeping its color much longer,) of perfect form and exceptionally uniform in size and shape, brilliant scarlet color, with prominent bright golden seeds, and ripens all over at once, rendering it of the greatest beauty imaginable. Quality superb, wonderfully productive and extremely vigorous, forming large stools. The blossom is pistillate and its season is medium until very late.

A large party of eminent horticulturists assembled at Mr. ——— last June for the purpose of inspecting this variety, and their unanimous verdict was that it possessed real merit. It was christened upon this occasion by vote of the company. Taken altogether no one can say that it has not been honestly and fairly introduced, and we will hope it is one of the few that has come to stay.

From the New Jersey Standard.

(*From a series of articles on "The Strawberry" by E. Beekman.*)

From present indications, Ocean County is destined to be the starting point of a strawberry that will be the most desirable for this part of New Jersey. It originated at Manchester, and is named after that place. It grows there in that white sand, is large, red, firm, of perfect form and flavor, and seems destined to fill the long felt want of this part of the berry growing belt, a large, hard, good flavored strawberry that will be prolific on poor soil and under slack cultivation.

Almost all varieties of large, sweet berries, that have been introduced here, have started from places where they have had the utmost petting and the best of soil, and with us they have proved failures. Take for instance Durand's Seedling.

From the Rural New Yorker, of Aug. 27, 1881.

(In reply to a note of Mr. A. B. Allen, in which he suggests that the success of the Manchester the past season is owing to copious rains.)

I was at Mr. ——— with the visiting committee, and will state that the Wilson—as well as Russel's Prolific—was growing in beds adjoining the Manchester, the Wilson being chiefly used as the fertilizing plant. The Wilson and the Manchester had been growing side by side in this way for several years, and no better opportunity or conditions for comparison could have been asked for. Mr. Allen is unquestionably right in saying that the past moist season was a good one for growing strawberries in sandy soils like that at Manchester; but the Wilson was unmistakably beaten, not only during the past moist season, but also during the exceptionally hot and dry one that preceded it. It seems to have been the fact that the two varieties had been grown for years in adjoining beds, that determined the visiting committee to use the Wilson as the subject for comparison, several members having seen them thus grown together for years past. There were not a few old friends of the Wilson present, but there was no difference of opinion, so far as I could learn, as to the superiority of the Manchester. I am of opinion, that we have in the Manchester a plant with all the vigor, ruggedness and productiveness of the Wilson, and a very much better fruit,

We have notices also from the Cultivator and Country Gentlemen, N. Y. Weekly Sun, N. Y. Weekly World, The Gardener's Monthly and Horticulturist, and several other papers; but as they are all in purport similar to the account of meeting of June 9th as reported in the New Jersey Standard (pages 5 & 6), we omit them.

SOUHEGAN RASPBERRY.

We often hear it exclaimed, "O, if we only had a raspberry as good and productive as the Doolittle used to be!" The Souhegan (spelled also Skowhegan), is this, and more. Besides being larger, jet shining black, of as good quality, even hardier, doubly as productive (to some this may seem incredible yet a fact nevertheless) as Doolittle's improved in its palmiest days, *it is fully a week to ten days earlier.* The illustrious Downing, who it is well known is as conservative as he is venerable, thus speaks of it in the Fair No. of the Rural New Yorker—"Skowhegan is a fine, new, early variety, and has the reputation of being the hardiest of the black-caps, as well as the earliest to ripen, bearing very abundantly crops of large, bright, black berries, without bloom; it also continues longer in bearing than most others. The flesh is moderately firm, juicy, sweet, rich, and separates readily from the stem. The canes are strong and vigorous." To which the editor adds, "Souhegan promises to share a part of public attention in the near future." It has now fruited two years at the Monmouth Nursery, and I regard it as the most valuable black-cap that has yet appeared—the Gregg not excepted—besides being extremely early. Price $2.00 per dozen, $12.00 per 100.

J. T. LOVETT,

January, 1882. Little Silver, N. J.